

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A demand assignment multiple access satellite communication system, comprising:

a specific earth station configured to perform line assignment control;

a plurality of other earth stations configured to be connected to said specific earth station by a common signal channel line through a communication satellite;

a calling earth station, selected from one of the plurality of said other earth stations, configured to demand assignment of a communication line by transmitting a request to said specific earth station through said common signal channel line, wherein

said specific earth station assigns a communication line in response to the demand for line assignment, and said calling earth station and a called earth station perform a communication using said assigned communication line and release said communication line upon completing the communication; and

said plurality of other earth stations are configured to transmit data to said specific earth station over the common signal channel line without requesting a communication line when said plurality of other earth stations determine that a quantity of data to be transmitted is below a predetermined threshold.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The satellite communication system according to claim 1, wherein

said plurality of other earth stations are configured to select a transmission bandwidth of said common signal channel line depending on data quantity to be transmitted from said earth stations.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The satellite communication system according to claim 1, wherein

said plurality of other earth stations are configured to select a plurality of continuous or discontinuous TDMA slots of said common signal channel line depending on data quantity to be transmitted from said earth stations.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The satellite communication system according to claim 1, wherein

said plurality of other earth stations are configured to select a transmission bandwidth of the common signal channel line depending on data quantity to be transmitted from said earth stations, and configured to select a plurality of continuous or discontinuous TDMA slots of said common signal channel line depending on the data quantity to be transmitted from said earth stations.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The satellite communication system according to claim 1, wherein

when transmitting data to said specific earth station, said plurality of other earth stations are configured to demand transmission bandwidth and TDMA slots of the common signal channel line necessary for data transmission to said specific earth station, and said specific earth station are configured to assign a transmission bandwidth and TDMA slots of said common signal channel line to the calling earth station to serve as exclusive communication line for said calling earth station.